Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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R 161524Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5022

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR

SUBJECT: QUAI DENIES "VISA WAR" BETWEEN FRANCE AND USSR

- 1. QUAI SPOKESMAN HAS PROMPTLY DENIED EXTENSIVE FRENCH PRESS STORIES THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN DRAGGING HEELS ON FOUR SENIOR DIPLOMATIC VISAS FOR FRENCH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW.
- 2. ISSUE REPORTEDLY INVOLVES THREE SENIOR COUNSELORS AND A MILITARY ATTACHE. ACCORDING TO AMALRIC IN LE MONDE, SOVIETS RETALIATING FOR EARLIER FRENCH FAILURE ACCREDIT TWO SOVIET "DIPLOMATS" WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED BY UK IN 1970. AMALRIC SAYS AFFAIR IS NOT LIKELY TO REKINDLE LAGGING WARMTH OF FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS. CHANGE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT REASSURED SOVIET PRESS. UNDER

THESE CONDITIONS, LE MONDE CONCLUDES, BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE THIS YEAR NO LONGER EVEN BEING DISCUSSED.

- 3. QUAI PROMPTLY ISSUED STATEMENT DENYING THAT THERE WAS A "VISA WAR." ACCORDING TO QUAI, ONLY TWO REQUESTS FOR FRENCH DIPLOMATIC VISAS ARE STILL OUTSTANDING AND SOVIET REQUESTS ARE UP TO DATE. QUAI ADDS THAT NO SOVIET REQUESTS HAD BEEN REJECTED.
- 4. COMMENT: WE WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY MOSCOW'S IMPRESSIONS OF SITUATION AT FRENCH EMBASSY BEFORE TOUCHING ON CLEARLY NEURALGIC POINT AT QUAI.
 RUSH

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Message Attributes

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